

THAT WHICH IS CLAIMED:

1. A multilayer film comprising:
a first outer layer;
5 a second outer layer; and
at least one intermediate microporous layer disposed between said first and
second outer layers,
said first and second outer layers independently formed from heat sealable
compositions and said intermediate layer formed from an oxygen impermeable
10 composition.
2. A multilayer film according to Claim 1, wherein said heat sealable
composition exhibits an oxygen transmission rate that is at least about 50 cc-mil/100 in²-
24 hr-atm @ std.temp. higher than said oxygen impermeable composition.
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3. A multilayer film according to Claim 1, wherein said oxygen impermeable
composition exhibits a melting point that is at least about 5 °C higher than said heat
sealable composition.
- 20 4. A multilayer film according to Claim 1, wherein said oxygen impermeable
composition exhibits a modulus that is at least about 5,000 psi higher than said heat
sealable composition.
- 25 5. A multilayer film according to Claim 1, wherein said oxygen impermeable
composition comprises at least one of polyethylene homopolymer, polypropylene
homopolymer, ethylene/alpha-olefin copolymer, propylene/alpha-olefin copolymer,
ethylene/unsaturated ester copolymer, styrene homopolymer or copolymer, and polyester
homopolymer or copolymer as a primary polymer.
- 30 6. A multilayer film according to Claim 1, wherein said oxygen impermeable
composition comprises polypropylene/alpha-olefin copolymer as a primary polymer.

7. A multilayer film according to Claim 1, wherein said heat sealable composition comprises at least one of polyolefin, ethylene vinyl acetate, ethylene methyl acrylate, ethylene butyl acrylate, ethylene methyl acid and ionomer as a primary polymer.

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8. A multilayer film according to Claim 1, wherein said heat sealable composition comprises an ethylene/alpha olefin copolymer as a primary polymer.

9. A multilayer film according to Claim 1, wherein said heat sealable composition comprises linear low density polyethylene as a primary polymer.

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10. A multilayer film comprising:

a first outer layer;

a second outer layer;

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a center layer;

a first intermediate microporous layer disposed between said first outer layer and said center layer; and

a second intermediate microporous layer disposed between said second outer layer and said center layer,

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said first and second outer layers and said center layer each independently comprising a heat sealable composition and said first and second intermediate layers each independently comprising an oxygen impermeable composition.

11. A multilayer film according to Claim 10, wherein said unfilled oxygen impermeable polymer composition comprises propylene/alpha olefin copolymer as a primary polymer.

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12. A multilayer film according to Claim 10, wherein said heat sealable composition comprises an ethylene/alpha-olefin copolymer as a primary polymer.

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13. A multilayer film according to Claim 10, wherein said heat sealable composition comprises linear low density polyethylene as a primary polymer.

14. A package comprising:

- 5 (a) an oxygen-sensitive product; and
(b) a multilayer film comprising
(i) a first outer layer formed from a heat sealable composition;
(ii) a second outer layer formed from a heat sealable composition; and
(iii) at least one intermediate microporous layer disposed between said
10 first and second outer layers, said intermediate layer formed from an oxygen impermeable composition.

15 15. A package according to Claim 14, wherein said multilayer film substantially surrounds said oxygen-sensitive product.

16. A package according to Claim 14, wherein said oxygen-sensitive product comprises at least one foodstuff selected from the group consisting of meat, dairy products, fruits and cut vegetables.

20 17. A package according to Claim 14, wherein said multilayer film is lidding stock.

18. A method of forming a multilayer film, said method comprising

- 25 (a) forming a microporous polymer composition by combining an effective amount of at least one blowing agent with an oxygen impermeable composition; and
(b) coextruding at least one microporous layer comprising the microporous polymer composition along with outer nonporous layers comprising heat sealable compositions.

30 19. A method of forming a multilayer film according to Claim 18, wherein said chemical blowing agent comprises at least one member selected from the group

consisting of sodium salts of carbonic and polycarboxylic acids, chlorofluorocarbons, isobutene blends, water, carbon dioxide, air and mixtures thereof.

20. A method of forming a multilayer film according to Claim 18, wherein
5 said chemical blowing agent comprises sodium salts of carbonic and polycarboxylic acids.

21. A method of forming a multilayer film according to Claim 18, wherein an
effective amount of at least one chemical blowing agent ranges from about 0.25 to 2
10 weight percent, based on the weight of the oxygen impermeable composition.

22. A method of forming a multilayer film according to Claim 18, further
comprising coextruding two microporous layers comprising the microporous polymer
composition along with a nonporous center layer comprising a heat sealable composition
15 disposed between the two microporous layers.

23. A method of forming a multilayer film according to Claim 18, further
comprising coextruding three layers comprising the microporous polymer composition.